



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Y. Gross

Office: (502) 564-2015 **Cellular:** (502) 330-5063 **E-mail:** lisa.gross@education.ky.gov

BOARD AGREES TO IMPLEMENT STATE MANAGEMENT, ASSISTANCE

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Today, the Kentucky Board of Education approved Education Commissioner Terry Holliday's recommendation to implement state management in the Breathitt County school district and state assistance in the Monticello Independent school district.

In accordance with state law KRS 158.785, if the commissioner determines that a management audit of a school district establishes an existing pattern of a significant lack of effectiveness and efficiency, and state assistance or state management is necessary to correct the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness, the commissioner shall place a recommendation to declare the district "state-assisted" or "state-managed" before the board for a hearing on the matter.

In November, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) completed a management audit of the Breathitt County school district. The findings of the audit report indicated that a significant lack of efficiency and effectiveness in the district's management and governance exists. The report also indicated that the district lacks the capacity to fix problems on its own.

The board's action means that all administrative, operational, financial, personnel and instructional aspects of management formerly exercised by the Breathitt County Board of Education and district superintendent will now be done by Commissioner Holliday or his designee. The commissioner likely will appoint a state manager to act on his behalf in the district.

The district will develop and implement an improvement plan approved by the Kentucky Board of Education identifying deficiencies and corrective actions necessary to improve school district governance and administration.

(more)

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The district's improvement plan will include specific objectives and strategies to correct deficiencies in defined timeframes and the identification of local board and individual administrative staff responsibilities and activities. The district will provide to the commissioner monthly reports indicating the status of improvement activities in the district. The commissioner will report on the district's efforts at Kentucky Board of Education meetings.

Under KRS 158.785, the district will be designated as "state-managed" until the Kentucky Board of Education determines that the pattern of ineffectiveness and inefficiency has ended and the deficiencies identified through the management audit have been addressed. State management may not continue for more than three years unless a follow-up management audit indicates a need.

The board also approved the commissioner's recommendation that the Monticello Independent school district be designated as "state-assisted." A management audit conducted in November indicated the existence of a pattern of inefficiency and ineffectiveness, primarily in the district's governance, finance and personnel operations.

KDE will provide management assistance to the district to develop and implement a plan to correct deficiencies found in the management audit. KDE will monitor the development and implementation of the corrective plan to improve the governance or administration of the school district.

If Commissioner Holliday determines that the plan is being inadequately developed or implemented, he will make a recommendation to the Kentucky Board of Education to declare the district a state-managed district.

Monticello Independent will be under state assistance until at least February 2013, at which time the district's progress will be reviewed to determine if the designation should continue.

These are the first instances in many years that districts have been formally designated as "state-managed" or "state-assisted" under KRS 158.785. The most recent designation of state management occurred in 1997, with the Floyd County school district. The most recent designation of state assistance was in 2000, with the Covington Independent school district.

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